

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 00471 302246Z

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2063

INFO AMCONSUL ZURICH

UNCLAS BERN 0471

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR LETTER FROM
PRESIDENT FORD

1. AS A MAIN PART OF ITS BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM, THE
SWISS-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WILL PUBLISH A 250
PAGE "YEAR BOOK 1976". THE YEAR BOOK WILL SURVEY SWISS-
AMERICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND INCLUDE STATISTICAL MATERIAL.

2. THE CHAMBER WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO REPRODUCE A LETTER
FROM PRESIDENT FORD AS THE FRONTISPIECE OF THE YEAR BOOK,
ALONG WITH A SIMILAR LETTER FROM SWISS CONFEDERATION PRESIDENT
GNAGI.

3. THE CHAMBER'S MEMBERSHIP IS COMPRISED OF MORE THAN
1,100 REPRESENTATIVES OF SWISS AND AMERICAN BUSINESSES
AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ORGANI-
ZATION IN SWITZERLAND DEVOTED TO PROMOTING SWISS-AMERICAN
COMMERCE AND FRIENDSHIP.

4. WE SUPPORT THE CHAMBER'S REQUEST AND SUBMIT
THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED TEXT FOR APPROVAL:

BEGIN SUGGESTED TEXT:

DEAR FRIENDS:

I AM DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY THROUGH
"YEAR BOOK 76" TO SALUTE THE SWISS-AMERICAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE AND TO EXTEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO ITS
MEMBERS.

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IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR, AMERICANS LOOK BACK
WITH PRIDE ON THE ENORMOUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR REPUBLIC'S

FIRST TWO HUNDRED YEARS. OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WERE WISELY
GUIDED BY FAITH IN THE ABILITY OF FREE MEN AND FREE ENTER-
PRISE TO PROVIDE NOT ONLY FOR OUR MATERIAL PROSPERITY,
BUT FOR A QUALITY OF LIFE UNATTAINABLE WHERE MEN ARE
NOT FREE.

WE KNOW THAT OUR FRIENDS IN THE SWISS CONFEDERATION,
THROUGH LONG TRADITION, SHARE THIS COMMITMENT TO THE
PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM.

AS WE LOOK AHEAD FROM 1976, IT IS CLEAR THAT CRUCIAL
CHALLENGES CONTINUE TO CONFRONT OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
SYSTEMS. INCREASINGLY COMPLEX PROBLEMS WILL DEMAND
IMAGINATIVE AND BOLD SOLUTIONS. BUT NEW PROGRAMS
DO NOT REQUIRE NEW PRINCIPLES. AMERICANS WILL CONTINUE
TO BE GUIDED BY THE SOUND IDEALS WHICH HAVE SERVED US
AND THE FREE WORLD SO WELL. WE GAIN STRENGTH FROM THE
KNOWLEDGE THAT SWITZERLAND SHARES NOT ONLY OUR DEMOCRATIC
TRADITION, BUT ALSO OUR DEDICATION TO FREEDOM AS THE
REQUISITE FOR PROGRESS.

GERALD R. FORD
END TEXT.
DAVIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, BOOKS
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Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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